The Middletown Transcript

VOL. 45. NO. 2 MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE, SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 13, 1912. PRICE THREE CENTS

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Fine Confections constantly on Hand.

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Town Property, Farm Buildings, and Stock
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☞Insure now against damage from wind storms
Life and Accident Insurance
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M. MILLER

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TWO MEN START OUT

both apparently equally well dressed. But in a short time one's clothing is all out of shape while the other's is as stylish and shapely as ever. The first bought factory made clothing with the shape pressed in. The other had us make his clothing to order and we tailored the shape so it stays there. Which suit is the cheaper in the end?

We carry one of the finest line of Woolens, from one of the largest Woolen houses in the United States bearing the name "Delmer Woolen Co." and the firm guarantee's that every inch of their woolens is nothing but pure selected wool. See their guarantee on every yard of cloth. We have five hundred different patterns from which you can make your choice, all this season's glories. We make very fine Ladie's Garments and guarantee best work, good fit, and made up-to-date. We recieve fashion plates every month, imported from Paris. We also do all kinds of cleaning, pressing, repairing altering and dyeing on Ladies' and Gent's Garments. Gives us a trial and you will be convinced at the result.

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—INCORPORATED 1847.—

Kent County Mutual Insurance Co.

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Insures Prperty Against Fire and Lightning

BUSINESS CONDUCTED ON THE MUTUAL SYSTEM

Has Returned to its Policy-Holders in Dividends and Surrendered Policies over $500,000.00

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Prompt & Efficient Service

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CAPITAL.... $600,000
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STEEL Dockash

Price $55.00

Complete with water front or reservoir.

The manufacturers of this range claim it would not be possible to build a better range with a million dollars and a million men. A mighty big claim, but we believe it after five years' experciene in selling and using it. The users of this range have the satisfaction of knowing they have the best. There are other good ranges made, but nne the equal of the Steel Dockash; it is in a class by itself.

We have a full line of Ranges, Single or Double Heaters, Air-tight, etc. Repairs for all makes of stoves.

J. F. McWHORTER & SON

Middletown, Delaware

ENORMOUS DEVELOPMENT

Indicative of the enormous industrial development in the United States during the last fourteen years, and of what the Pennsylvania Railroad expects in the near future, are figures just issued by that road which compare the capacity of its freight yards in 1897 and 1911.

Fourteen years ago the Pennsylvania had facilities for accommodating 103,789 cars. These have since been enlarged to take care of 142,659 cars, and new yards have been added to the System which bring the total capacity up to 192,104 on the Lines East of Pittsburgh and Erie, an increase of 88,315 cars, or 95 per cent.

The new yards built since 1897 will hold 49,445 cars. Of these, the one at Northumberland, Pennsylvania, is the largest, affording trackage for 5,944 cars.

Facilities for doing work at the Altoona Yard have been more than trebled since the installation of the Hollidaysburg Yard. These two are now required to do the work formerly done by the one at Altoona. The combined capacity is nearly 16,006, while the old Altoona Yard could only handle 5,100 cars.

In 1897 the Harrisburg Yard was capable of holding 4,422 cars. Since that time, large additions have been made to this and a new yard has been constructed at Enola on the other side of the Susquehanna River. Together these can harbor 13,160 cars.

INSTITUTES FOR FARMERS

DOVER, Del., Jan. 9th.—Dates and places for Kent and Sussex farmers' institutes between January 29th, and February 27th, have been selected by the State Board of Agriculture as follows:

Selbyville, January 29th, 30th; Georgetown, Odd Fellows' Hall, January 31st; Lewes Auditorium, February 1st; Milton, School Hall, February 2d; Ellendale, School House, February 3d; Delmar, February 5th; Laurel Maccabees' Hall, February 6th; Seaford, Coulbourn's Opera House, February 7th; Bridgeville Opera House, February 9th; Felton, Grange Hall, February 10th; Milford, Armory Hall, February 12th and 13th; Smyrna, Opera House, February 14th and 15th; Dover, Court House, February 16th and 17th.

Among those who will speak are Professor Hayward, Delaware College; D. N. Kern, Allentown, Pa.; W. B. Tubbs, Selbyville; E. H. Shallcross, Middletown; D. R. Merrit, Dover, and H. S. Lippincott, Bacon.

NOTICE TO TAX-PAYERS —OF— APPOQUINIMINK HUNDRED

The taxable residents of Appoquinimink Hundred, and all persons liable to pay tax in said Hundred, are hereby notified that the Taxes for the year 1911 are now due, and the undersigned Tax Collector for said Hundred, will be AT THE OFFICE OF GEORGE M. D. HART,

IN TOWNSEND, DEL., EVERY SATURDAY, During JANUARY, 1912, From 1 to 5 o'clock, P. M.

Tax bills can be obtained by making personal application to the Collector, or by sending written communication enclosing stamps.

EXTRACT FROM THE LAWS OF DELAWARE, GOVERNING THE COLLECTION OF TAXES OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY, SECTION 3, CHAPTER 30, VOLUME 21, LAWS OF DELAWARE, AS AMENDED:

Section 3—That on all taxes paid before the first day of October there shall be an abatement of five per centum. On all taxes paid before the first day of December there shall be an abatement of three per centum. On all taxes paid during the month of December there shall be no abatement whatever. And on all taxes unpaid on the first day of January five per centum thereof shall be added thereto.

WILLIAM C. MONEY, Collector of Taxes for Appoquinimink Hundred

Now is the Time to Buy

And an inspection of these properties will make you seriously consider.

No, 580 130 acres at Quaker Neck Whf. 125 in cultivation, balance in timber, apple and pear orchard, meadow, good soil, fair fencing, near school, church and stores, 6 miles to Chestertown, 8 room frame house, porch, good condition, stable, barn, carriage house, etc., shade, excellent well of water. Directly on Chester river. Cheap at $7,500.

No. 578 131 acres, Broad Neck, Kent County, 108 cleared, balance in timber, apples and pears. 6 room frame house, tenant house of 5 rooms, stable, barn and carriage house, shade, good soil, good water, near school, church and stores. $4,000.

J. WATERS RUSSELL

REAL ESTATE BROKER

Chestertown Maryland.

NOTICE--ELECTION!

THE PEOPLES' NATIONAL BANK, OF MIDDLETOWN,

Middletown, Del., Dec. 7th, 1911.

The Annual Election for Ten Directors to serve for the ensuing year will be held at the Banking House on Saturday, January 13th, 1912, between the hours of 10 o'clock, A. M., and 12 o'clock, noon.

NOTICE--ELECTION!

CITIZEN'S NATIONAL BANK OF MIDDLETOWN

Middletown, Del., Dec. 7th, 1911.

The Annual Election for Directors of this Bank will be held at the Banking House, on Tuesday, January 9th, 1912 between the hours of 10 A. M. and 12 M

JNO. S. CROUCH, Cashier.

NOTICE—DIVIDEND

NEW CASTLE COUNTY NATIONAL BANK OF ODESSA, JAN. 3d, 1912.

The Directors have this day declared a Semi annual Dividend of Three and one half per cent. clear of taxes, payable on and after the 10th inst.

JOS. G. BROWN, Cashier.

THE TRANSCRIPT $1

USEFUL THINGS TO KNOW

Celery on Chestnut Salad.—Take equal measures of celery and cooked chestnuts, cut in thin slices. Add a few tablespoonfuls of French dressing. At serving time arrange on lettuce and garnish with slices of latticed apples.

A very pretty way of serving individual butter for company is to make the balls much smaller, using three small ones on each butter plate instead of one, and from parsley break a stalk with three stems inserting the end in each ball. The effect is very pleasing, as they look more like flowers than butter.

A cloth dipped in salt and rubbed on frosted windows will remove the thickest frost almost instantly.

It may be news to some to hear that a piece of bread burnt to a crust will remove grease on cloth if rubbed upon the spot following the nap of the cloth.

When packing, tie in bottle corks well and put the bottles in the middle of the trunk. If carried solidly in this way they will carry around the world.

A cleaver little idea for refreshments for a children's party is this: Get a box of animal crackers and with a heavy sirup fasten the animals upright on round salted crackers or the long saltines may be used. Decorate with chocolate by putting in eyes with melted chocolate. These will delight the little people and there is nothing harmful in such refreshments.

Never shake rugs or hang them on lines to be beaten. One such treatment will often ruin a rug. Place them on the ground and beat or sweep then. They can be very satisfactorily cleaned by spreading on a porch and carefully sweeping. The best way of course, is to use the vacuum cleaner on them, as then there is no wear on them.

It is also said that the head of a match, after being lighted and then blown out, if applied to a stain from paint, the spot will disappear.

When out of cake, put delicate crackers together with white or chocolate frosting. Chopped nuts and raisins may be added and these little cakes served with tea will be happily received by any guests.

Remove from the fire and knead with the hands until ready to use. Use a small piece, kneading and turning it to keep the clean side out to rub with.

When troubled with rats put fresh unslaked lime around their runways. If they get burned they will be careful never to try it again.

If one can possibly get the time he will do well to pick up a lot of fuel in the wood lot that cannot be had after snowfall.

A little alcohol rubbed on quickly will clean a dirty window better than soapsuds ammonia in wash water is equally.

Physicians claim that sleep is more refreshing in a darkened room. It is well to accustom children from infancy to sleep in the dark.

Dampness will soon tarnish brass articles. But if they are kept in a dry and cool place they will remain untarnished for a long time.

Wet shoes should be stuffed with paper before they are put away. The paper will absorb the moisture and keep the shoes from becoming hard.

A flannel dipped in spirits of turpentine will be found very useful in cleaning the porcelain tub or sink. Kerosene will answer almost as well.

Brass polished only with rotten-stone and oil will have a deep, rich yellow tone while the acid polishes leave it whiter and more brilliant.

Boiled rice or baked potato will go excellently with sweetbreads and this is good for the sick.

A cloth shirt should never be hung up inside out, as this tends to crease it more than anything else.

To insure that potted plants will thrive always have a little water in the saucer under the flower-pot.

When milk boils over hn the stove sprinkle on some salt at once. This will counteract the disagreeable odor.

Bronzes should be cleaned by rubbing with sweet oil. Rub dry with a soft cloth and polish with chamois.

After putting buttered paper in the cake pans, sprinkle in just a little flour. This will keep the cakes from sticking.

Gruel, when properly prepared, should be a little thicker than cream, and should be free from lumps.

Shoes will last much longer if occasionally rubbed with vaseline when they are new.

A small quantity of chopped figs added to a nut and apple salad gives an excellent flavor.

A long-handled buttonhook should be kept in the laundry to clean the lint from the tub outlets.

The cheaper and lighter the pan the whiter and lighter the bread when you bake in a gas range.

Chiffon velvet is a most excellent thing for brushing a felt hat, whether a man's or a woman's.

For obstinate nose bleed put an ice pack or cloth wrung out in ice water at the back of the neck.

Never polish a piano with anything but refined linseed oil.

A mixture of borax and red pepper is good to rid closets of insects.

Verdigris can be removed from brass by the use of ammonia.

Nothing makes finer polish for tinware than good wood ashes.

Medicine should never be left in sight of the invalid in the sick room.

Jonquils or daffodils are placed to advantage in a brass or copper urn or vase.

Undue consumption of tea, coffee, cocoa and chocolate will make the skin sallow.

To make sure that bread will rise in cold weather, warm the flour before mixing.

BRIEF NEWS ITEMS OF THE PENINSULA

Bids have been issued for the erection of three large stores in Milford.

An exploding lamp damaged the home of H. L. Shepherd, Rising Sun.

John Wilmer Brown, Newark's new postmaster, assumed charge of the office Friday.

Friends of Curtis Davis, of Laurel, have proclaimed him as a candidate for Congress on the Republican ticket.

St Francis Xavier Catholic Church near Warwick, which was burned a few days ago, will be re-built without delay.

Young men of Milford have formed the Colonial Club, with Roy Pettyjohn president, and will give monthly dances.

During the past year 118 permits were granted for the erection of dwelling houses at Salisbury, aggregating a cost of $200,000.

As soon as the weather permits, a two-story concrete corn-packing house will be erected by the Torsch canneries in Milford.

Charged with desertion and wife-beating, Howard Boyer was held under $750 bail for Court by Magistrate Wook, at Dover.

All the Chinamen in Wilmington, 22, have cut off their queues upon hearing of the victories gained by the rebel armies at home.

A dog owned by David Masten, of near Georgetown, developed rabies Saturday and before he was killed bit several dogs and cattle.

Wayne Reynolds, president of the Cecil Farmers' Club, has been elected secretary and treasurer of the Sinan Detective Association.

Wilmer Black, an expert accountant, has applied for appointment as State Auditor, a position now filled by George R. Ash, of Elkton.

Nick Johnson and John Thomas, two negroes of Ruthsburg, have been sentenced to 30 days in Centerville jail and each fined $15 and costs for resisting an officer.

While the pay car of the Pennsylvania Railroad was running between Lewes and Georgetown, it killed a pair of mules near Coolspring and barely missed the driver.

Raymond Lingo, of Dagsboro, a son of Register of Wills R. R. Lingo has been appointed assistant postmaster of Millsboro succeeding Harvey Lawson resigned.

Major William E. Lank, formerly captain of Company B. Delaware Militia, Milford, formerly turned over the company to Lieutenant J. J. Foulk, next in command.

Daniel H. Adams, colored, who nearly killed his wife in their Wilmington home, is said by the woman to have been mentally deranged at the time through the use of cocaine.

Rev. C. E. McCullough, pastor of the First Methodist Protestant Church in Georgetown, has been granted a release so that he may accept a call from Chicago. He leaves next week.

The Christopher Columbus Italian Beneficial Society, of Wilmington, has decided to erect a monument to Columbus in Wilmington, the city having donated $100 toward the project.

A swindler, who represented himself as an agent for a large poultry house in Philadelphia, robbed the farmers of Kent and Queen Anne counties of about $800 worth of poultry during the holidays.

Jesse A McKay has been elected. captain, Harry Smith, first lieutenant add Frederick Peech, Jr., second lieutenant of Company H, Organized Militia of Delaware, at New Castle, recently re-organized.

Attracted by tempting offers to enter the produce commission business in Pittsburgh, Warren Windsor, principal of Millsboro High School, has resigned, the vacancy being filled at present by William Moore.

John McDowell, of Chester, Pa., who for 17 years has been superintendent of the shipyards in the plant of the Harlan & Hollingsworth Corporation, in Wilmington, has resigned to accept a position with the Standard Oil Company at Chester.

A stranger who entered the home of Mrs. John Reed, at State road, and insisted on sitting in front of the kitchen stove with his feet in a coal bucket, proved to be an escaped inmate of Farmhurst asylum and was taken back by Constable Woolson.

Because two jurors in the blasting damage suit of Mrs. Lewis Richards vs. the Charles A. Sims Company, Baltimore & Ohio contractors, visited the ruins of the Bloomsbury mansion on the outskirts of Havre de Grace during the Christmas holidays, thus rendering them ineligible, the case came to a sudden ending in Cecil County Court.

Has Read Bible 21 Times

GEORGETOWN, DEL., Jan. 9—Finishing the reading of the Bible for the twenty-first year, George Messick, 66 years old, station-master for the D. M. & V. Rail road at Georgetown, has achieved the unique distinction of being the champion Bible reader of the State, and to day he started on the twenty second reading. Messick first commenced to read on New Year's day, and each succeeding day read a certain number of chaptars until the Book was completed. In the course of years the time has not been quite sufficient in each year to complete the read ing, so that this year he did not finish until Monday.

DISEASE AMONG HORSES

Forage Poisoning, or So-called Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis

The following statement is given out by Dr. J. R. Kuhns, Secretary of the State Live Stock Sanitary Board, for the benefit of the public and stock owners:

This disease prevails among horses in nearly all parts of the United States. It is most common in Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. Certain localities are visited by it almost every year. This condition consists in a poisoning and depression of the nervous system from eating or drinking food or water containing poison, generated by mould or bacteria. It has been shown to be due to eating damaged ensilage, corn, brewers' grains, oats, hay, etc., or to drinking stagnant pond water, or water from a well contaminated by surface drainage. Horses or cattle at pasture may contract disease when growth of grass is so profuse that it mats together and the part dies and ferments, or becomes mould. About a year ago, Mr. Theodore Carrow, of White Hall Neck, lost some milk cows by pasturing on this kind of grass, and no doubt would have lost the majority of his herd had I not suspected the cause and changed the herd to other pasture.

A disease similar in many respects, which is very prevalent in Virginia especially along the Eastern border, is commonly known by the name of "blind staggers," and it is also known here in Delaware and breaks out along the marshes in the fall of the year. This I attribute to eating mould on grass, cobwebs and stiff mosquitoes that become so from the cool nights and cannot get away, and the horses eat them with the grass while pasturing, or they are thrown to them in the hay that is usually thrown down from the mow the evening before and possibly watered for the next feed.

In Virginia this so-called "blind staggers" is attributed to worm eaten corn. Horses of all ages and mules are subject to this disease; cattle can also take it although there is not nearly so much danger to give them such feed.

Symptoms

The symptoms which typify sporadic or epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis in man are not witnessed among horses, namely, excessive pain, high fever and early muscular ridigity. In the recognition of the severity of the attack we may divide the symptoms into three grades. In the most rapidly fatal attacks the animal may first indicate it by weak, staggering gait, partial or total inability to swallow solids or liquids, impairment of eyesight; twitching of the muscles and slight cramps may be observed. As a rule, the temperature is not elevated, it is sometimes below normal. This is soon followed by paralysis of the whole body, inability to stand, delirium in which the animal sometimes goes through a series of automatic movements as if trotting or running. The delirium may become very violent and the animal in his unconsciousness may bruise his head, in his struggles, very seriously, but usually a deep coma renders him quiet until he expires. Death in these cases usually takes place in from four to twenty-four hours from the time the first symptoms become manifest. The pulse is variable during the progress of the disease and may be almost imperceptable at times, and then again very rapid and regular; the respirations are quick and catching generally.

The next form in which this disease may develop first becomes manifest by a difficulty in swallowing, and a weakness which may be first noticed in strength of the tail; the animal will be unable to switch it or to offer resistance when we bend it up over the croup. The pulse is often a little slower than normal. There is no evidence of pain, the breathing is normal and the temperature a little less than normal; the bowels may by somewhat constipated. These symptoms may remain unchanged for two or three days and then gradual improvement takes place, or the power to swallow may become entirely lost and the weakness and uncertainty in gait more and more perceptible. The sleepiness or coma may appear; the pulse become depressed, slow and weak; the breathing hard and jerky and delirium develop with an inability to stand and some rigidity of the spinal muscles or partial cramp of the neck and jaws. In such cases death may occur in from six to ten days from the commencement of the attack.

In many cases there is no evidence of pain, spasm or fever at any time during the progress of the disease, and finally profound coma develops and death follows—painless and without a struggle. So much for the symptoms, which I think every one can understand plainly.

Treatment

Right here is where the profession falls down, for I think it is useless to treat cases unless you can get to them before they are paralyzed. So I will again warn the public to either refrain from feeding mouldy corn and fodder, or to treat it with the salt solution. Salt is an antiseptic and a safe one for anyone to use. It will make a horse drink more water and I think this theory ought to appeal to the people, because a horse eliminates all the poison from his system through the kidneys.

Shocked to Death on Pole

DOVER, DEL., Jan. 9.—Nicholas Wilkins aged 23, of Willard's, Md., employed as linesman by the Diamond State Telephone Company, was electrocuted while working on top of a pole at Division street and Governor's avenue shortly before noon today in the presence of many people.

Other linesmen saw Wilkins fall back warns from his lofty perch and realized he had been shocked. He fell backward into a nest of wires, and was removed with a block and fall hastily rigged. He was taken to the office of Dr. J. W. James who said Wilkins was killed almost instantly.

FARM NEWS AND VIEWS

The city dealer profits by the laziness of the grower, by grading and repacking his badly assorted fruit.

When spraying do not work with bare hands. They'll be sore if you do. Put on a pair of rubber gloves.

Very few pears are at their best if allowed to ripen on the tree. A good rule is to pick when the seeds have turned brown.

A cover of quail in the orchard will prove a good friend to the grower, because they eat a tremendous number of insects.

An orchard soil rich in organic matter is the kind of soil we want; hence grow a clover crop this fall and plow under the next spring.

The apple thrives well on a great variety of soils, provided it is well drained and otherwise well cared for.

All feed possible should be grown on the farm.

Turkeys do not take kindly to indoor roosting places.

Try and protect all stock from cold winds and rains. It pays.

At the time of shipment the fleeces of sheep or lambs should be dry.

Reject all damaged feed. It will pay you in good milk and excellent butter.

Don't neglect to commence feeding the colts the grain before they are weaned.

Is the slobbering horse in need of more grain, or may it not be that its teeth need filling?

Sheep like men, can endure great severity if conditions are maintained favorable to the body.

There are a good many breeders who still believe that it is profitable to grind corn for the hogs.

It's a good idea to wait on the corn until you are sure it is safe to be cribbed, but not to wait any longer.

A few hours' attention to the implements when storing saves days of work in the spring rush.

Fall plowing of the garden destroys cut worms and other insects beside getting rid of fall weeds.

Potatoes for seed should be carefully stored where the temperature will be as low as possible without freezing the potatoes.

Bees are safe for the winter? If they see in the cellar, see that the hives are raised from the floor. Remove the bottom board.

Hog millett is correctly known as broom corn millet. It produces more grain and slightly less forage to the acre than common millet.

It is said that cherries cannot be grown profitably at any great distance from large bodies of water.

The average yield of Irish potatoes in Illinois for 1911 was 82 bushels per. acre.

The side delivery hay rake, the binder-engine, the hay stacker and the gas power grain elevator all are helps to more profitable farming.

Potatoes and other root crops will keep well if stored in moist sand, but the temperature must be kept low enough to prevent sprouting.

The stone silo when properly built has always given satisfaction.

Study and master at least one farm problem during the leisure time this winter.

Get the habit of hauling manure to the field every day as it is taken from the barn.

Rubber hose must be hung in a dry place if you expect it to last long enough for you.

Give the asparagus bed an over coat of manure before hard, freezing weather comes on.

If you have a garden you will find poultry manure valuable at this season.

The sort of seed corn to select is the kind that produces bushels per acre.

Gather your vegetables before heavy frosts and store in suitable places.

Decaying organic matter in the soil adds to its warmth and stimulates plant life.

A mixed cover crop of nitrogenous and non-nitrogenous plants is often used to advantage.

Cabbages can be stored in pits the same as root crops, but they should be covered with at least ten inches of soil.

A low temperature is necessary for storing any vegetable, but it must be a cool, dry air, free from odors and taints.

It is not commonly known, but cement sacks are returnable after using, if not damaged, at a valuation of ten cents each.

It should be remembered that a horse can do more than his feet will stand.

Failure to secure profits in hog raising are usually due to mismanagement.

Good clean food, pure water, fresh air and clean surroundings such as stables and yards will keep stock healthy and increase the profits on the place.

Any work or exercise which produces severe strain on the muscles, especially of the hindquarters, is liable to cause abortions in mares.

One of the first essentials for the well-being and comfort of live stock is the water supply, which, upon the average farm, is entirely inadequate to the needs of the stock.

Fence the fodder!

Pick all half ripe or green tomatoes before the frosts come.

Linseed meal contains bone forming matter.

Horses with tender feet needs lots of attention.

In the purchase of a new horse always purchase a mare.

No domestic animals increase or decrease as raipdly as pigs.

Parasites common to sheep infest southern flocks just as elsewhere.

Keeping comfortable goes a long ways toward making cheap pork.

It is a mistake if the hog is not fed in a clean place free from dust and mud.

The Middletown Transcript

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MIDDLETOWN, DEL., JAN. 13, 1912

THE REFORM FLOOD

Only mole-blind partisanship, as unwise as it is uncandid, can fail to see that Mr. Taft's devotion to the Special Interests, has utterly alienated the confidence and support of the great mass of the American people.

On the recommendation of Theodore Roosevelt, Republicans elevated William H. Taft to the presidency, believing he would, as he promised, honestly carry forward the reform Progressive movement in the interests of all the people that Roosevelt himself had well begun. But instead of doing this, Taft has abandoned the cause of the people for that of the Trusts and the Special Interests.

To discerning ones, the beginning of this treasonable betrayal by Taft of the people's cause, was seen before he had been four months in office. He has repudiated the people, and they in turn have been repudiating him—more and more universally.

At every election held since Taft's inauguration, state after state has rolled up big Democratic or Progressive anti-Taft majorities, till the huge roster of a national condemnation of his course has reached the total of 24 states and dozens of municipalities; and now on the heels of this avalanche of popular protest, comes the overwhelming defeat of Judge Martin, an avowed Taft Republican running for Congress in the 7th district of the staunch Republican state of Kansas!

Holy Writ tells us that in the days of Noah the antidiluvian standpatters poohpoohed the flood till it finally engulfed them all, and only those refuging in the ark escaped.

The Reform flood has set in, its mighty tides are hourly swelling, and soon will sweep in a shoreless expanse over the land; then for the reactionaries there will be no refuge save in the Progressive ark of safety.

ANOTHER PARDON OUTRAGE

The judges of the Court of General Sessions duly convicted John Barr of the crime of bribery in an election in Sussex County and fined him $600 where they might have imposed a fine of $5000 and imprisonment for three years.

Besides this mild sentence, the Constitution of the State very properly adds for this serious offence, the further penalty of disfranchisement for ten years. Barr appealed to the Supreme Court, the highest judicial body in the state and the judges of that court after carefully reviewing both the evidence and the law in the case, unanimously affirmed the decision of the court below.

To the disgust and chagrin of all decent citizens, the Board of Pardons by a bare majority of one voted to remove this constitutionally imposed disability and to restore to this briber the franchise right he had so grossly abused and the Governor promptly ratified their action.

But what fully discredits this course of the majority, is that it was taken by three laymen against the advice of Chancellor Curtis who as the Chief Justice in the Supreme Court, had heard all the evidence on the appeal, and was well aware of its total want of merit, and who together with Lieutenant Governor Mendinhall, protested against the granting of the pardon.

All honor to Chancellor Curtis and Lieutenant Governor Mendinhall for their refusal to share in this act of shame!

TOWNSEND

Mr. Archie Finley, of Philadelphia, was in town on Sunday.

Miss Pearla Boggs, of Smyrna, is the guest of Miss Wells.

Mrs. Sallie Taylor is visiting Philadelphia friends this week.

Miss Jennie Staats is visiting her daughter Mrs. J. Pritchard.

Mrs. Sallie Rairiner, of Still Pond, Md., is visiting her sister Mrs. J. Lattomus.

Miss Ethel Lee spent a few days of this week with relatives near Smyrna.

Mr. Hart Scott and Miss Arrelee Lattomus attended the Newark dance on Friday night.

Mr. Kemp Donovan, of Wilmington, was an over Sunday visitor with his parents here.

Misses Arralee Lattomus and Ethelwyn Maloney were in Philadelphia a few days last week.

Miss Elizabeth Dorman, of Baltimore, returned home on Friday after a very pleasant visit with her cousin Miss Ella Maloney.

NEW PETIT JURY

Jury Commissioners John Nivin and L. Scott Townsend, Tuesday afternoon, drew the following petit jurors to report for Superior Court and the Court of General Sessions on the 29th of January:

First Representative District—James Hoopes, Martin F. Hutton, Abraham Bacharach, Howard E. Cannon.

Second—James McC. Primrose, James Monaghan, Frank H. Mason, Gardiner Keen.

Third—Frank Vansant, Thomas Tatnall, Leslie L. Pyle, George F. Young.

Fourth—Jecob Zimmerman, Thomas McEvilly, Millard F. Davis, Elmer E. Hare.

Fifth—George H. Crawford, Charles Keech, Jay W. Burns, William H. Babcock.

Sixth—John W. Oakes, J. Gilpin Highfield.

Seventh—Frank J. Clark, Alexander Bell.

Eighth—Joseph Mitchell, E. L. Highfield.

Ninth—Leslie Hill, Oliver Rothwell.

Tenth—George Slack, Harry C. Hunter.

Eleventh—William T. Dayett, J. Irvin Dayett.

Twelfth—Albert N. Sutton, Frank Lynam.

Thirteenth—William A. Moore, Samuel H. Eaton.

Fourteenth—William Davis, William West.

Fifteenth—William Watson, Jr., William A. Lattomus.

Now is the Time to Buy

And an inspection of these properties will make you seriously consider.

No, 580 130 acres at Quaker Neck Whf. 125 in cultivation, balance in timber, apple and pea, orchard, meadow, good soil, fair fencing near school, church and stores, 6 miles to Chestertown, 8 room frame house, porch, good condition, stable, barn, carriage house, etc., shade, excellent well of water. Directly on Chester river. Cheap at $7,500.

No. 578 131 acres, Broad Neck, Kent County, 108 cleared, balance in timber, apples and pears. 6 room frame house, tenant house of 5 rooms, stable, barn and carriage house, shade, good soil, good water, near school, church and stores. $4,000.

J. WATERS RUSSELL
REAL ESTATE BROKER
Chestertown Maryland.

WHAT ABOUT THAT JOB OF

Plumbing

Call and let me give you an estimate before you give your order. I am in a position to give you the very best materials in all branches of the plumbing trade. All work guaranteed to be satisfactory. I can do your

PLUMMING, STEAM FITTING, Pump and Well Work

Or furnish you with a
"BUTLER" Wind Mill or Hay Track on short notice
If you need anything in my line, a postal card will bring me to your home.

LONG DISTANCE PHONE NO. 70
JOHN B. SPICER
P. O. Box 31,
MIDDLETOWN, DELAWARE

FIRE INSURANCE

Town Property, Farm Buildings, and Stock
TORNADO INSURANCE
☞Insure now against damage from wind storms
Life and Accident Insurance
GEORGE D. KELLEY,
Middletown, Del

NOTICE TO TAX-PAYERS
—OF—
St. Georges Hundred!

The taxable residents of St. Georges Hundred, and all persons liable to pay tax in said Hundred, are hereby notified that the Taxes for the year 1911 are now due, and the undersigned Tax Collector for said Hundred, will be at

A. G. COX'S OFFICE, MIDDLETOWN
SATURDAY, JAN. 27th, 1912
From 1 to 3 P. M.

ARMSTRONG'S HOTEL, IN ODESSA.
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31st, 1912
From 1 to 3 P. M.

AT R. S. CARPENTER'S STORE, IN PORT PENN,
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24th, 1912
From 1 to 3 P. M.

EXTRACT FROM THE LAWS OF DELAWARE, GOVERNING THE COLLECTION OF TAXES OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY, SECTION 3, CHAPTER 30, VOLUME 21, LAWS OF DELAWARE, AS AMENDED:

Section 3—That on all taxes paid before the first day of October there shall be an abatement of five per centum. On all taxes paid before the first day of December there shall be an abatement of three per centum. On all taxes paid during the month of December there shall be no abatement whatever. And on all taxes unpaid on the first day of January five per centum thereof shall be added thereto.

JOHN E. DENNY,
Collector of Taxes for St. Georges Hundred

NOTICE TO TAX-PAYERS
—OF—
Blackbird Hundred!

The taxable residents of Blackbird Hundred, and all persons liable to pay tax in said Hundred, are hereby notified that the Taxes for the year 1911 are now due, and the undersigned Tax Collector for said Hundred, will be

AT BLACKBIRD, WATSON'S STORE,
JANUARY 27th, 1912
From 1 to 4 P. M.

AT FLEMING'S LANDING,
JANUARY 22d, 1912
From 1 to 4 P. M.

AT DELANEYS,
JANUARY 26th, 1912
From 1 to 4 P. M.

Tax bills can be obtained by making personal application to the Collector, or by sending written communication enclosing stamps.

EXTRACT FROM THE LAWS OF DELAWARE, GOVERNING THE COLLECTION OF TAXES OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY:

Section 3—That on all taxes paid before the first day of October there shall be an abatement of five per centum. On all taxes paid before the first day of December there shall be an abatement of three per centum. On all taxes paid during the month of December there shall be no abatement whatever. And on all taxes unpaid on the first day of January five per centum thereof shall be added thereto.

JOHN BEITH,

NOTICE TO TAX-PAYERS
—OF—
APPOQUINIMINK HUNDRED

The taxable residents of Appoquinimink Hundred, and all persons liable to pay tax in said Hundred, are hereby notified that the Taxes for the year 1911 are now due, and the undersigned Tax Collector for said Hundred, will be

AT THE OFFICE OF GEORGE M. D. HART,

IN TOWNSEND, DEL.,
EVERY SATURDAY.
During JANUARY, 1912,
From 1 to 5 o'clock, P. M.

Tax bills can be obtained by making personal application to the Collector, or by sending written communication enclosing stamps.

EXTRACT FROM THE LAWS OF DELAWARE, GOVERNING THE COLLECTION OF TAXES OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY, SECTION 3, CHAPTER 30, VOLUME 21, LAWS OF DELAWARE, AS AMENDED:

Section 3—That on all taxes paid before the first day of October there shall be an abatement of five per centum. On all taxes paid before the first day of December there shall be an abatement of three per centum. On all taxes paid during the month of December there shall be no abatement whatever. And on all taxes unpaid on the first day of January five per centum thereof shall be added thereto.

WILLIAM C. MONEY,
Collector of Taxes for Appoquinimink Hundred

We have had a Very OPEN WINTER so far, but we are likely to make up for this with a Blizzard at any time.

Don't get CAUGHT WITHOUT FEED on hand, especially when you consider that, during the regular weather, feed is almost sure to be higher.

Cotton Seed Meal	$34.00
Boveta Hull and Meal Mixture	26.00
Bran	29.50
Sucrene Dairy Feed	28.50
Sucrene Horse and Mule Feed	31.00
Blatchford's Calf Meal	4 1-2c per lb.

From $2.00 to $2.50 discount per ton to milk patrons.

Middletown Farms, Inc.

Middletown Opera House

H. S. Newman's Famous Motion Pictures
MAGNIFICENT PROGRAM FOR
Saturday Evening, January 13th, 1912

The Usual Thrilling Program for Saturday Night. See bulletin board in front of theatre for program.

Don't miss these special features

Monday Evening, January 15th.—"THE BATTLE" Biograph
The most wonderful war picture since the advent of motion photography. 1000 people in action. For realism and thrilling scenes it has no equal.

Extraordinary

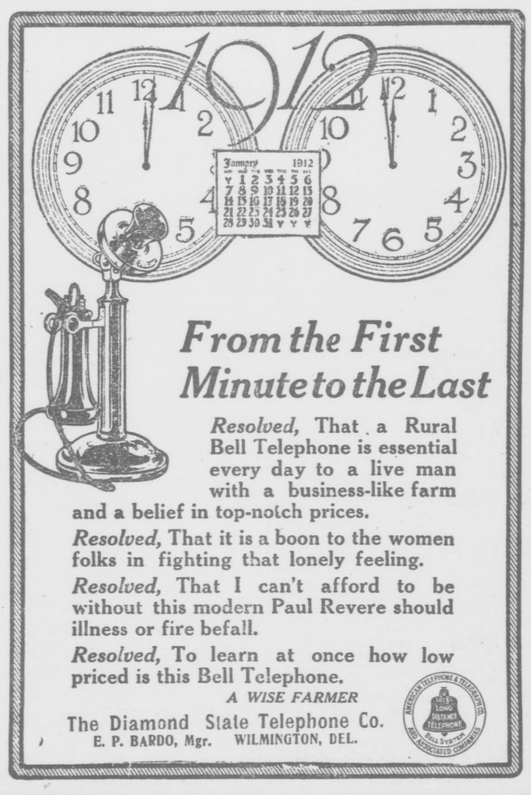
Thursday Evening, January 18th.—Pathe's Original and world renowned.
"PASSION PLAY" and "HOLY CITY"—In 5 Reels
Owing to the expense of procuring this great production the prices of admission for this exhibition will be 15 cents for adults and 10 cents for children under 12 years. This picture will be exhibited from 7 P. M. until 11 P. M. Come early.

Monday Evening, January 22d.—"DAMON AND PYTHIAS"
In 2 Reels Selig
This story is too well known to need any comment. If you have not read the story, be sure to read it, and then come and see this fine picture.

Monday Evening, January 29th.—"ARRAH-NA-POGUE"
KALEM
A classic Irish drama in 3 Reels, from Boucicault's masterpiece. Every scene taken in Ireland. If you liked "Colleen Bawn" you will surely like this BETTER. It's fine.

Gallery reserved for Colored Patrons

H. S. NEWMAN



From the First Minute to the Last

Resolved, That a Rural Bell Telephone is essential every day to a live man with a business-like farm and a belief in top-notch prices.

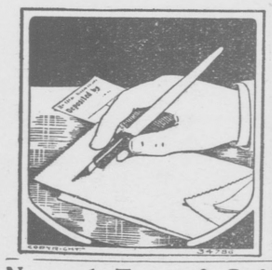
Resolved, That it is a boon to the women folks in fighting that lonely feeling.

Resolved, That I can't afford to be without this modern Paul Revere should illness or fire befall.

Resolved, To learn at once how low priced is this Bell Telephone.

A WISE FARMER

The Diamond State Telephone Co.
E. P. BARDO, Mgr. WILMINGTON, DEL.



IT IS ENDORSED BY MANY
Our system of liberal yet conservative banking. We take no chances on loans so our depositors are always protected.

We Stand on Solid Foundation
As our numerous patrons know
4 per cent. interest paid on Savings Accounts.
Deposits received by mail.
If you have idle funds awaiting investment, write us and we will be glad to give you information as to how we can be of service to you.

Newark Trust & Safe Deposit Company
Newark, Delaware

OFFICERS
S. J. Wright, President — Chas. B. Evans, Secretary
H. G. M. Kollock, Vice-President — Geo. D. Kelley, Jr., Treasurer

The Transcript $1

JANUARY CLEARING SALE

Continued

More Bargains and New Goods

OUR January Clearance Sale is still continuing and is a money saver for those wise enough to pick up the Bargains that result from the necessity of getting old goods out of the way of the New Goods. Real Winter didn't begin till the season was one-half over, and that leaves us with a bigger amount of Winter Goods to sell in the few days of Winter left. We MUST get these goods off our shelves to make room for our Spring Goods. For nearly the whole week our Mr. Fogel was in New York getting ready for the Spring campaign and also in buying White Goods for our Annual WHITE GOODS SALE at the end of January—the biggest BARGAIN Sale of White Goods ever made by us.

"Black Cat" and "Onyx" Stockings

We have now laid in a big stock of these celebrated and superior brands of STOCKINGS "Black Cat" and "Onyx" for Men, Women and Children.

Ladies' and Misses' Suits
Ladies' and Misses' Coat Suits for winter and spring wear, made of strictly all-wool materials, man tailored, all in the latest Fall and Winter styles at SPECIAL REDUCED PRICES. We are grouping together in 3 lots our entire stock of these coat suits as follows:
Lot No. 1, $12 and $10 Suits.....$8.50
" " 2, $13.50 and $15 Suits...$12.00
" " 3, $18 and $20 Suits.....$15.00
You must come and see and examine these suits to appreciate the size of the bargains they offer.

Ladies' and Misses' Coats
All our Black and Blue Serge Coats are made of strictly all-wool serge, full length, nicely tailored and lined throughout with Belding, 1 yard wide guaranteed satin. The maker's guarantee for the lining goes with each garment. These coats were never before sold for less than $15.00 and they were good values at that figure. Our CLEARANCE SALE Price **$12.00.** All our Polo Coats and Caracul Coats have been reduced from ⅓ to ½.

Rubbers--High Top Winter Shoes

This cold snap with snow and slush calls for Rubbers and High Tops for young and old. We carry the best brand of rubber goods on the market—the famous original "GOODYEAR" which outwears the cheap adulterated rubber goods—Rubbers and High Top Shoes for winter wear for Ladies, Men, Misses and Children—all offered at Big Reductions. The winter being already one-half gone, special inducements are necessary—hence these Big Reductions.

For our **House Furnishing Bargains,** it is indeed the "last call in the dining-car," as we have only a few of them left—but enough to make it well worth while to pick up Agateware, etc., at 1-3 the usual price.

Fogel & Burstan

Department Store

Cor. Broad and Main Streets
Middletown, - - Delaware

Guaranteed Roofing!

While you are about it, put on a good roof, one that you won't have to be painting and fussing with every little while to keep it in proper condition. Get the guaranteed, trouble-proof roofing—

RELIANCE RUBBER ROOFING
"The Roof Durable"

and it won't make much difference what the weather so far as your roof is concerned.

Reliance is fully guaranteed without painting or coating, Three ply, 10 years; Two ply, 8 years and One ply 5 years and it is the only roofing made backed so liberally.

It's easy to lay, costs little and gives long and faithful service.

Ask for samples and interesting booklet *"Guaranteed Roofing".* They're yours promptly for the mere request.

Sold by
G. E. HUKILL

M. BANNING
East Main Street Market
DEALER IN GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Fine Groceries, Flour of all Grades, Select Teas, Pure coffees and Spices.

Butter and Cheese from the best daires.

Choice Syrups and Molasses.

Foreign and Domestic Fruits, Can Fruits and Vegetables.

Also a complete assortment of goods usually kept in a first class store. We have our new 1912 Wall Paper now in for your inspections

Don't forget our Dry Goods, Notions, Window Shades, Linoleum, Oil Cloth etc.

Goods delivered promptly, free of expence.

M. BANNING
Phone 60 East Main St.
Middletown, Delaware

John Heldmyer, Jr.

Fancy and Staple Groceries
FRESH AND SALT MEATS
Try Heldmyer's Half Smokes
If not as good as you have ever eaten, come back and get your money.

Our Own Make of Fresh Sausage a Specialty
HIGHEST CASH PRICES PAID FOR FRESH EGGS.
Phone No. 53 Two per cent. off for CASH.
West Main St. MIDDLETOWN, DEL.

SAMUEL B. FOARD
PAYS THE HIGHEST MARKET PRICE FOR
ALL KINDS OF **Grain**
Mr. William Janvier is our Grain Purchasing Agent at St. Georges.

ON HAND AT ALL TIMES HIGH-GRAD BITUMINOUS & LEHIGH
COAL!
SAWED WOOD by the Cord or in small quantities
Lime, Seed, Feed, &c.
SEED OATS

Redgrave Bros.
DEALERS IN
Hardware, Stoves, Paints, Tin Roofing, Plumbing
Middletown, Delaware

William B. Kates
Wholesale and Retail Manufacturer of
Ice Cream, Water Ice
ALL FLAVORS
Fine Confections constantly on Hand.
Also Oysters in Season
MIDDLETOWN, DEL.

ALWAYS IN THE LEAD

The J. E. Baker Co. Now offers for Sale
Victor Fine Ground Limestone

The Best Way to Lime

The United States Government and the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experimental Stations are now recommending finely Ground Limestone as the best way of applying Lime to the soil. It does not destroy manure, there is no danger of burning your crops, it keeps for years, and can be applied at any time, or season.

Easiest and Cheapest to Use

Comes packed in canvas bags or paper bags. Can be easily handled, and kept in storage indefinitely, without change or loss. No more laborious slaking, no more choking dust, nor scalding burns. Can be drilled into the soil or sowed on the surface and harrowed in. Saves half the cost of the old way of applying Lime. Is cheaper and better.

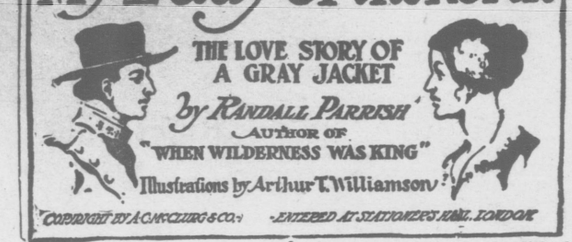
GIVES MAXIMUM RESULTS

It has been proved that very finely Ground Limestone produces as a fertilizer the same results pound for pound as air slaked Lime, or any other commercial fertilizer, and because VICTOR fine Ground Limestone is the purest, most finely ground Limestone on the market and because it destroys no manure or crop, it gives much better results than any other burned or hydrated Lime made.

See your Local Agent or write.

J. E. Baker Company
York, - - - Pa.

My Lady of the North



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CHAPTER XXVIII.

We Capture a Courier.

The girl's light burst of laughter aroused me thoroughly to a sense of our situation.

"You seem to derive much amusement from a condition of affairs almost intolerable to me," I said bitterly. "I have always valued most highly the friendship of Mrs. Brennan, but this unfortunate occurrence will doubtless end it."

She glanced up at me, her long lashes wet, but her dark eyes sparkling with mischief.

"Oh, she won't care so far as you are concerned," she exclaimed indifferently. "But I suppose she will think I am perfectly horrid. Well, I don't care if she does; she might have waited and learned the truth first. Wasn't her face a study? And how shall I ever explain to Arthur so that he will understand? I'm sure I have got the worst of it. Oh, Captain Wayne, is my hair all ruffled up? I know I look like a fright. You must come in now, and we will explain to Mrs. Brennan the whole matter. She cannot help believing us both, while I know she would be so cold and proud to me alone."

I shook my head decisively. Perhaps it was better ended so; at least I possessed no courage just them to face her indignation. She might but deem we had concocted our explanation, and would very likely receive it with all the scorn she felt it deserved. Besides, it was clear there was nothing I could do to aid them. I should be now merely an unwelcome intruder. An escort was to be there shortly to convoy them northward, and for me to be found in their company by Brennan would only inflame him and add greatly to the embarrassment of his wife's position. Much as I might long for immediate vindication in her sight, the plain duty of true love was to depart at once, and permit time to straighten out the tangle.

"You must pardon me," I hastened to say, standing hat in hand before her, "but it would not be best for me to intrude upon Mrs. Brennan after her late reception. I merely halted here in order to assure myself of your presence and safety. My men are even now waiting for me a few hundred yards away."

"But I wish you to meet Arthur."

"Oh, I think not, Miss Minor. I feel warm friendship for Lieutenant Caton, but we wear different uniforms, serve under different flags, and a meeting here, both with armed forces behind us, would naturally have to be a hostile one. However the Lieutenant and I might consent to a temporary truce, his superior officer, Major Brennan, would not likely prove of the same mind."

"Then you really must go?"

"Unless you specially desire to witness a cavalry skirmish in your front dooryard, I certainly consider it best," and I held out my hand. "Surely we part as friends, and I may hope that you will intercede in my behalf with Mrs. Brennan?"

She rose up impulsively.

"How ridiculous; how supremely ridiculous! Why, of course I will, though I don't suppose Edith really cares very much, but she believed it would be highly proper to be shocked. I don't think she likes you so very well anyway, Captain Wayne, for she never will talk about you."

With these cheering words ringing in my ears, and feeling thoroughly defeated in every cherished hope, I strode savagely down the long hill and mounted my horse. How roughly fortune had suffeted me, to be sure, and how extremely small the inspiration left. Well, perhaps I deserved it for ever permitting myself to love one whom I knew to be the wife of another. Doubtless she had seized upon this slight pretext to be rid of me, and was already rejoicing over its easy accomplishment.

In my agitation I forgot entirely the presence of Maria Bungay at the house, and ordering my men into saddle prepared for departure without giving a thought to the little fellow and his domestic troubles. I chose the road leading toward the northwest, for although I had not asked the question I conceived it highly probable that Brennan and his party would ride from the Federal calvary quarters at Colter's Church, and I had no desire to meet them. They were upon an errand of mercy of far greater importance than my revenge.

As we swung along through the heavily timbered land fringing our road, Bungay pressed his mule into a trot and finally succeeded in ranging up at my side. Even in my disturbed mental condition I was amused at his unique style of riding, although I would not wound him by laughing.

"I say, Cap," he said, jerking the words out to the mule's hard trot, and grasping his saddle pommel desperately, "I sorter reckon as how ther'll be some fun back thar afore long 'less all signs fail."

"Why?" I stared at him, now thoroughly aroused to the thought that he had important news to communicate.

"Wal," he explained slowly, "whin ye wint off, I sorter tuk a notion ter look 'bout a bit. Used ter be an ol' stompin' ground o' mine. So Dutchy an' me climb thet big hill back o' whar we halted, and' by gum, down thar in ther gully on t' other side thar's a durned big camp o' fellers."

I reined up short, and with uplifted hand signalled the men behind to halt.

"Why didn't you tell me this before?" I questioned sternly. "How many were there? and what did they look like?"

He scratched the back of his head thoughtfully, and answered with careful deliberation. "Durn it, I didn't jine ye till after y'd started, an' I reckon as how it took me all o' tew mile ter git this yere blame muel up ter whar I cud talk. Thar's quite a smart bunch, but they had some picksets out, an' I cudn't git close 'nough ter tell zackly. Dutchy thought thar wus nigh onter two hundred o' 'em, but I jist don't know. They wusn't dressed like sojers o' either army, an' I reckon they're out o' ther hills."

I glanced at my little handful of men, scarcely knowing what decision it might be wise to make. Undoubtedly they would fight if occasion arose, but the odds were terribly heavy; besides, if Brennan came, and his party got away that same evening, as was planned for them to do, then it might not be necessary for us to strike a blow. I was certainly in no mood to expose my small command merely to save the empty house from destruction.

"Ebers," I said, turning toward the Sergeant, who sat his horse with expressionless face, "you were with the guide when he discovered this camp. How many do you think it contained? and who were they?"

"Vel, dere vos more as two companies, Captain, und dere vos some horses, but dey vos dressed—vot you calls it?—all ober not ner same."

"Not in uniform?"

"Dot vos it."

"Have any of the rest of you seen anything that looked suspicious?" I asked, glancing around into the different faces.

"Maybe I did," answered one of the troopers named Earl. "As we rode up the first hill after leaving the house my horse picked up a stone, and I had to stop and get it out. I reckon I fell behind a quarter of a mile or more, and just as I started I looked back, and a party of ten or twelve fellows was just riding in through them big gates onto the front lawn. But them fellows was soldiers for sure; they rode regular like, and all of them wore caps. It was so far off I couldn't tell the color of their clothes, but them caps made me think they was Feds."

I chose my course at once. This undoubtedly must have been Brennan's party.

"Thank you, my man; it would have been better if you had reported that to me at once," I said. "However, I understand the situation much better now. Sergeant, we will go into camp here. Post pickets in both directions, but put your most careful men on that hill yonder. Let them report promptly any signs of fire to the southeast, or any sound of guns."

We completed all our cooking before dark, and when the night finally closed down about us it proved to be an exceedingly black one, although the skies were clear. Sleep was an impossibility for me, as my mind was in constant turmoil.

Ebers was lying next me upon the grass, solemnly puffing at his huge

"Is It Possible This Is You?" He Cried Excitedly.

pipe, and I held my watch to the glow in its bowl in order to see the time It was nearly midnight.

"Those fellows ought to be at it before this," I said to him, "if they intend to accomplish anything to-night."

"I dink so too," he answered slowly "I vill see dot der guard is all right, an' den vill get some sleep, for I am pretty moch done op already."

He arose ponderously to his feet and stretched out his short arms in a prodigious yawn. As he stood there his pudgy figure outlined against the sky, there was borne to our ear the sound of a furious struggle on hilltop to the south—a shout, blows, a volley of cursing, then silence. An instant later we were both running through the darkness toward the scene of trouble.

"What is it, Sands?" I questioned breathlessly, as I came suddenly upon the little group.

"A fellar on hossback," was the answer. "He come up on us like a streak out o' thet black hollor, an' he'd a sure got away ef Mason hedn't clubbed him with his gun. I've got the cuss safe collared now."

"Who are you?" I asked sternly, striving in vain to see something of him through the darkness. "Where were you riding?"

I had scarcely spoken when our prisoner thrust Sands roughly aside and took one hasty step toward me.

"My God, Wayne! Is it possible this is you?" he cried excitedly.

"Caton?" I exclaimed, as surprised as himself. "Caton? What is it? What is wrong. Are you from the Minor house? Has it been attacked?"

"Yes," he answered, panting yet from his exertion and excitement. "We were to start North with the ladies at nine o'clock, but the house was surrounded as soon as it became dark. Those devils supposed it to be unguarded, and advanced without precautions. We fired and drove them back. He had repulsed three attacks when I left at eleven, but three of our men were already hit."

"You were after aid?"

"I was striving to reach our advance pickets at McMillan. It seemed the only possible chance, and none of the men would volunteer to make the ride. One was killed trying it before I started. God knows how I hated to leave them, but it had to be done. How many have you?"

"Only twenty; but if we could once get inside along with your fellows, we might hold the house until reinforcements came."

"Thank God! I knew you would!" he cried joyfully, grasping me again fervently by the hand. "You are not one to hesitate over the color of a uniform at such a time as this. Only, Wayne," and he hesitated an instant, "it is right I should tell you that Brennan is there, and in command."

"I know it, but those women must be saved nevertheless," I answered firmly, my mind settled. "This is no time for personal quarreling, and whatever color of cloth we wear those outlaws are our common enemies, to be hunted down like wild beats. I have seen specimens of their fiendish cruelty that make my blood run cold to remember. The very thought of those who are now exposed falling into such hands is enough to craze one; death would be preferable a thousand times. How many fighting men have you?"

"Seven fit for duty."

"Will you ride forward, or go back with us?"

"We must send word"—and the gallant fellow's voice shook—"but God knows, Wayne, I want to go back. If we both live I am to marry Celia Minor."

"I understand," I said gravely. "Ebers, who is your best rider?"

"It vos dot funny leetle yellow Glen, Captain."

"Glen, come here."

The trooper, a mere boy, with freckled face and great honest gray eyes, but wiry and tough as steel, pushed his way through the group and faced me.

"Glen," I said, "your Sergeant tells me you are the best rider in the troop. I am going to intrust you with the most important duty of all. The lives of every one of us and of four helpless women depend entirely upon your riding. You take two horses, kill both if necessary, but stop for nothing until your duty is done. You are to carry a note from me, and another from this gentleman, who is an officer in the Federal army, and deliver them both to the commandant of the first military post you find. Insist upon reaching him in person. It makes no difference which army the post belongs to, for this is a matter of humanity. The Federal outpost at McMillan is the nearest to us; make for there. You understand?"

The boy saluted gravely, all mischief gone from his face.

"I do, sir," he said. "But I'd a darn sight rather stay here and fight."

"You will be back in plenty of time to take a hand, my lad. Now, men"—and I turned to the dark, expectant ring about me—"this is no ordinary duty of your enlistment, and I wish no one to accompany me tonight who does not volunteer for the service. Seven Federal soldiers and four women, three of them Virginians, are attacked at the house we have just left by a large party of bushwhacking guerillas, the offscourings of hell. Every one of you knows what that means. Will you go with me to their rescue?"

No one seemed anxious to be first to speak. I could see them look aside uneasily at one another.

"Bungay," I said, "I feel sure you will go, for your wife is there."

"Mariar?"

"Yes; Miss Minor told me this afternoon, but I had forgotten to mention it."

The little man sprang into the air and came down with a whoop.

"The bloody devils!" he cried excitedly. "Ye bet I'il go."

"Come, Sergeant, speak up; what do you men say?"

"I like not to fight mit der Yankees," he admitted candidly, "but der vomens, py Chiminy, dot vos anoder ting. I vill go, Captain; mein Gott, yaw."

"We're with you, sir," spoke voice after voice gravely around the dark circle, and then Sands added: "We'll show them thar Yanks how the Johnny Rebs kin fight, sir."

Ten minutes later Glen, bearing his two messages to the Blue and Gray, was speedingly recklessly through the black night northward, while my little squad was moving cautiously back over the road we had so lately traversed.

CHAPTER XXIX.

A Mission for Beelzebub.

As we picked our way slowly forward through the gloom I gleaned from Caton all he knew regarding the situation before us. My own knowledge of the environments of the Minor house helped me greatly to appreciate the difficulties to be surmounted. He had succeeded in his escape by dodging among the negro cabins where the attacking line appeared weakest, but expressed the conviction that even this slight gap would be securely closed long before we reached there.

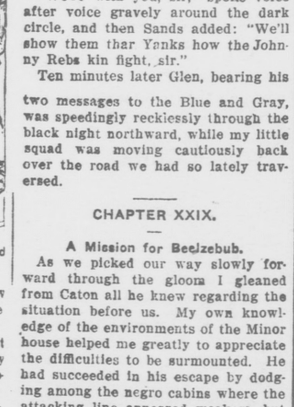
"Have they sufficient men, then, to cover thoroughly all four sides?" I asked.

"To the best of my judgment, there must be fully two hundred and fifty in the gang, and apparently they operate under strict military discipline. It is a revelation to me, Wayne, of the growing power of these desperate fellows. I knew they were becoming numerous and bold, but this surpasses anything I could imagine. More, they are being constantly recruited by new arrivals. A party of at least a dozen came in while I was hiding behind the stables. I heard them asking for the leader."

"What did they call him?"

"Lory, or Laurie, or something like that. They claimed to be deserters from Lee's army, but two or three of them wore our uniforms."

"It's Red Lowrie," I said gravely, more impressed than ever with the seriousness of the situation. "I heard



"That Feller Thar Is Captain Wayne, o' My Ol' Reg'ment."

of him two years ago—he killed a man in the Sixth North Carolina, and took to the hills. Since then he has developed into quite a leader for such scum, and has proven himself a merciless monster. You have no suggestion to offer as to how we had better attempt to get in?"

He shook his head despondingly.

"What station does Brennan defend?" I asked.

"The front of the house; the main point of attack has been there."

We could distinguish the sound of firing by this time, and its continuous volume convinced me that Caton's estimate of the number engaged was not greatly overdrawn. As we topped the summit of the hill a great burst of red fire leaped suddenly high into the sky.

"Great God, Wayne! we are too late!" he cried widly. "Those devils have fired the house."

With fiercely throbbing heart I gazed down at the flames far below in the black valley.

"No," I said with eager relief. "It is the stable which is ablaze. See, the light falls full upon the white side of the house. Thank Heaven, we are not too late."

As I sat my horse there, gazing down upon that scene of black rapine, unwilling to venture into its midst until I could formulate some definite plan of action, fully a dozen wild schemes thronged into my brain, only to be cast aside, one after another, as thoroughly impracticable.

"We shall have to make a dash for it, and trust in God," said Caton, guessing at my dilemma.

"No," I answered firmly, "there would be no possibility of success in such a course. Those fellows are old hands, and have pickets out. See, Caton, that is certainly a picket-fire yonder where the road dips. Every man of us would be shot down before we penetrated those guard lines and attained the house. We have got to reach their inner line some way through strategy, and even then must risk being fired upon by our own people before we get within cover."

Even as I was speaking I evolved a plan of action—desperate it certainly was, yet nothing better occurred to me, and time was golden.

"Ebers," I said, "didn't I see an extra jacket strapped back of your saddle?"

"It is no good," he protested vehemently. "It vos for der rain come."

"All right; hand it over to the Lieutenant here. Caton, throw that uniform coat of yours into the ditch and don honest gray for once. Sands, come here. Take your knife and cut away every symbol of rank on my jacket; tear it off, any way you can."

In another moment these necessary changes had been accomplished.

"Now," I ordered, "pile your sabers there with mine beside the road; then hobble your horses, all but the mule; I shall want him."

"Does we go der rest of der vay on foot?" questioned the Sergeant, anxiously.

"Certainly; and I desire you to remember one important thing: let me do the talking, but if any of you are asked questions, we are deserters from Hill's corps, tired of the war."

"Mein Gott!" muttered the German, disconsolately. "I hope it vos not long off, Captain; I am no good on foot in der dark, by Chiminy."

"You had better manage to keep up tonight, unless you are seeking to commit suicide. Now, men, mark me carefully! Load your carbines. Are you all ready? Sergeant, see that each man has his gun properly charged and capped. You are to carry your arms as thoroughly concealed as possible; keep close to me always; obey my orders instantly, and to the letter. We are but twenty men pitted against over two hundred, remember, and when we strike, it must be both quick and hard."

I mounted the mule, counted the dim figures in the darkness, and then gave the order to march. As we moved slowly down the hill I was aware that Caton walked upon one side of me, while Bungay plodded along upon the other; but my mind was so filled with the excitement of our adventure and all that depended upon its successful culmination, as scarcely to realize anything other than the part I must personally play. Good fortune and audacity alone could combine to win the game we were now engaged upon.

A tall heavily beared mountaineer stood squarely in the middle of the road to the north of the picket-fire. I could make out but little of him as the light shone, excepting that he wore a high coonskin cap and bore a long rifle.

"Stop right thar!" he called out hoarsely, upon hearing us. "Who are you uns?"

As he challenged, a dozen others sprang up from about the flame and, guns in hand, came toward us on a run.

"We uns are doggoned tired o' soldierin', an' a gittin' nuthin' fer it," I said in the slow Southern drawl, "an' wanter jine yer gang, pervidin' thar's any show fer it."

"How many are ye?" asked one of the newcomers, striding forward between us and the sentry.

"A right smart heap o' a bunch; bin a pickin' o' 'em up ever since we left Charlotte," I returned evasively. "They be dandies ter fight, an' I reckon as how ye kin use 'em, can't ye?"

"Maybe; who did ye want ter see?"

"Wal, they sed as how a feller named Lowrie wus a runnin' this yere gang, an' if thet's ther way o' it, I reckon as how it's Lowrie we're after. Be you Lowrie?"

"Naw."

The answer was so gruff and short, and the fellow hesitated so long in adding anything to it, I began to think it was all off.

"Wal," he consented to say at last, ungraciously, thar's a blame pile o' ye kim in lately, an' I calcalate we got 'bout 'nough fer our business, but I reckon as how Red will use ye somewhar. Anyhow you uns kin come 'long with me an' find out, but ye'll diskiver him 'bout ther ornerest man jist now ever ye run up again. He's plum mad, Red is, fer sartain."

He turned and strode off, without so much as giving us a backward glance, and, with a hearty congratulatory kick to the mule, I and my company followed him. A hundred yards further in we passed through the fringe of trees and emerged into an open space from whence we could see plainly the great white house still illumined by the flames which continued to consume the stables. Shots were flashing like fireflies out of the darkness on every side of us, the smell of burning powder scented the air, and I could distinguish the black forms of men lying prone on the grass in something resembling a skirmish line.

"Makin' a fight o' it, ain't they?" I asked of our taciturn guide, as we picked our way carefully among the recumbent forms.

"Damn 'em, yes, a hell o' a fight," he admitted bitterly.

Just beyond musket-shot from the house, and nearly opposite the front entrance, quite a group of men were standing beneath the black shadows of a grove of trees. In spite of the gleam I fused mass of men, without military formation, were running across the open space toward us.

"'Bout face!" I shouted. "Load at will—fire!"

We poured one scattering volley into them. It halted their movement for a moment, and then the door opened a scant crack.

"Is this you, Caton?"

"Yes; for God's sake, open up!"

The heavy door swung slowly inward, and with a wild rush to be first, we surged headlong into the hall.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

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